

SEP 29 1965

Dodd on Vietnam

May I correct an inaccurate statement describing my position on Vietnam, which appeared in an article by Stanley Karnow in your issue of Sept. 23. Mr. Karnow stated that I planned "to deliver a speech soon warning against current efforts to settle the Vietnam conflict peacefully."

Far from being opposed to the current efforts to settle the Vietnam conflict peacefully, the record will show that I have made repeated statements endorsing the Administration's efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement.

There is no secret about the fact that I consider the Geneva Convention a fraud perpetrated by the Communists on the overtrustful nations of the free world. I have said almost as much in previous remarks on the floor of the Senate.

There are many reasons why I would be opposed to returning to the Geneva Convention as the basis for the settlement of the Vietnam conflict, and the fact is that I do intend to speak on this subject at an early date, as Mr. Karnow was informed. But to be opposed to any return to the Geneva Convention is certainly not the same thing as opposing a peaceful settlement.

I am opposed to a return to the Geneva Convention because I believe that such a formula would come perilously close to an unconditional surrender—and I feel that the sponsors of the Geneva Convention formula in our own

country should pause to consider the fact that both Hanoi and Peking have been clamor-

ing for a return to the Geneva Convention.

I believe that the minimum formula we can agree to is one that effectively protects the peace and independence of the South Vietnamese people. Short of this, all of the vast effort we have invested to keep Vietnam free will be for naught.

Your article divides the participants in the Senate debate on Vietnam into "hawks" and "doves." I, myself, am described in the article as "an oratorical hawk." I believe that these terms are terribly misleading because they inevitably convey the implication that the Senators who are critical of the Administration are lovers of peace, while the Senators who support the Administration are war lovers. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I believe that every single member of the Senate is profoundly concerned over the preservation of the peace and over preventing the extension of the Vietnam conflict. But there are divisions among us, as is only natural, over how best to go about preserving the peace of the world. And this is what the Senate debate on Vietnam is all about.

But if your correspondent insists on categorizing us as members of the bird family, perhaps I should advise him, for future reference, that I don't really care what kind of bird he decides to describe me as, so long as he doesn't describe me as an ostrich.

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Washington.

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